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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/560,715	04/27/2000	William E. Rich	16866-002810US	4439

20350 7590 10/22/2002

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EXAMINER

AHMED, SHEEBA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1773

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/560,715	RICH ET AL.
	Examiner Sheeba Ahmed	Art Unit 1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-11,13-36 and 76-93 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-4,6-11,13-36 and 76-93 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 9 is acknowledged. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement and submit that each of the claims emerges out of a common inventive concept and that the search for relevant art to each of the embodiments would not create an undue burden on the Examiner. However, the Examiner disagrees. Groups I-IV are directed to a probe, a system of detecting an analyte, a method of making a probe and a method for detecting an analyte, respectively. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given in the Restriction Requirement mailed on April 4, 2002 (Paper No. 6) and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Hence, this Restriction Requirement is made FINAL.

In addition, upon further consideration, an election of species requirement as set forth below is required. Any inconvenience to the Applicants is regretted.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claim 17 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species of binding functionalities for the analyte:

- (1) salt-promoted interactions
- (2) hydrophilic interactions
- (3) electrostatic interactions

- (4) coordinate interactions
- (5) covalent interactions
- (6) enzyme site interactions
- (7) reversible covalent interactions
- (8) nonreversible covalent interactions
- (9) glycoprotein interactions
- (10) biospecific interactions

Claim 18 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species of the binding functionalities of the hydrogel material:

- (1) carboxyl group
- (2) sulfonate group
- (3) phosphate group
- (4) ammonium group
- (5) hydrophilic group
- (6) hydrophobic group
- (7) reactive group
- (8) metal chelating group
- (9) thioether group
- (10) biotin group
- (11) boronate group
- (12) dye group

(13) cholesterol group

Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, for each claim 17 and 18, even though this requirement is traversed.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention. is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Applicants are advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Conclusion

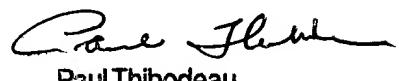
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheeba Ahmed whose telephone number is (703)305-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau can be reached on (703)308-2367. The fax phone

numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-5408 for regular communications and (703)305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5665.


Sheeba Ahmed
October 20, 2002


Paul Thibodeau
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700